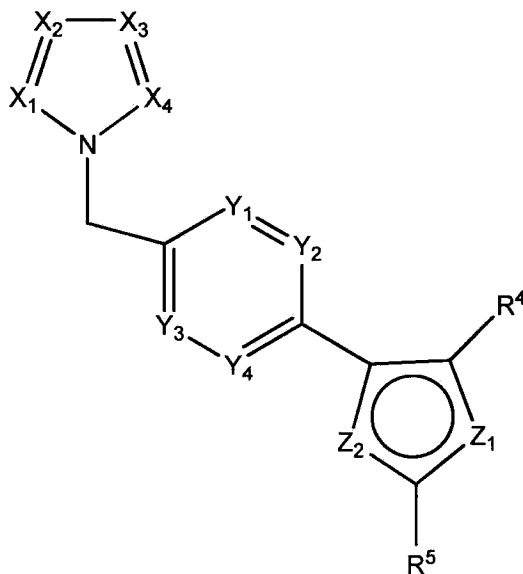


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I,



wherein

X₁ represents -C(R¹)- and X₂ represents -N-;

X₃ represents -C(R²)-;

X₄ represents -C(R³)-;

R¹ represents H, and R² and R³ independently represent H, C₁₋₆ alkyl,

C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl or halo;

Y₁, Y₂, Y₃, and Y₄ independently represent -CH- or -CF-;

Z₁ represents S;

Z₂ represents -CH-[[, -O-,]] or -N-;

R⁴ represents -S(O)₂N(H)C(O)R⁶, -S(O)₂N(H)S(O)₂R⁶, or -C(O)N(H)S(O)₂R⁶,

R⁵ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl or di-C₁₋₃-alkylamino-C₁₋₄-alkyl;

R⁶ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, and C₁₋₃ alkoxy-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylamino or di-C₁₋₆ alkylamino

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 2-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R² represents C₁₋₃ alkyl, halo or H.

12. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 11 wherein R² represents H or methyl.

13. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 11 wherein R² represents H.

14. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R³ represents C₁₋₃ alkyl, halo or H.

15. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 14 wherein R³ represents H.

16. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Y₁, Y₂, Y₃ and Y₄ all represent -CH-.

Claims 17 and 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Z₂ represents -CH-.

20. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁴ represents -S(O)₂N(H)C(O)R⁶.

21. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁵ represents *n*-butyl or *iso*-butyl.

22. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 21 wherein R⁵ represents *iso*-butyl.

23. (Previously Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein, when R⁴ represents -S(O)₂N(H)C(O)R⁶, -S(O)₂N(H)S(O)₂R⁶ or -C(O)N(H)S(O)₂R⁶, then R⁶ represents *n*-butoxymethyl, *iso*-butoxy or *n*-butoxy.

24. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 23 wherein R⁶ represents *n*-butoxy.

25. (Previously Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein, when X₁, X₃ and X₄ all represent -CH-, Y₁, Y₂, Y₃ and Y₄ all represent -CH-, Z₂ represents -CH- and R⁵ represents *n*-butyl or *iso*-butyl, then R⁴ represents -S(O)₂N(H)C(O)R⁶, in which R⁶ represents -O-*n*-butyl, -O-*iso*-propyl, -O-*iso*-butyl or -CH₂-O-*n*-butyl.

26. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, which is:
N-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthio[[-]]phene-2-sulfonamide;
N-*iso*-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butyl[[-]]thiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-*iso*-propyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butyl[[-]]thiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-(butoxyacetyl)-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-(butylamino)carbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butyl[[-]]thiophene-2-sulfonamide;

N-butylsulfonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;

N-ethyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;

N-*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butyl[[-]]thiophene-2-sulfonamide;

N-butyloxycarbonyl-3-[4-(4-methylimidazol-1-ylmethyl)phenyl]-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;

N-(*N*-butyl-*N*-methylamino)carbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide; or

N-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-(2-methoxyethyl)-thiophene-2-sulfonamide.

27. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

Claims 28-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and an AT1 receptor antagonist, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

33. (Original) A kit of parts comprising components:

- (a) a pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier; and

- (b) a pharmaceutical formulation including an AT1 receptor antagonist, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier, which components (a) and (b) are each provided in a form that is suitable for administration in conjunction with the other.

34. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

35. (Currently Amended) A kit of parts comprising components:

- (a) a pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture ~~[[is]]~~ with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier; and
- (b) a pharmaceutical formulation including an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier, which components (a) and (b) are each provided in a form that is suitable for administration in conjunction with the other.

Claims 36-43. (Cancelled)

44. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 26, which is *N*-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide.

45. (New) A pharmaceutically-acceptable salt of *N*-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide.